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## CITY'S EMPLOYEES WILL BUILD HOMES

Form Organization to Finance Construction of Houses Under Loan Method.

FIRE RULE IS AMENDED

Aldermen Allow Construction of 8-inch Walls in Certain Removed Sections.

A municipal employees' building and loan association was organized yesterday under the auspices of the Mayor's Housing Conference Committee to aid in the solution of the housing problem by financing the construction of homes for themselves.

Organization took place in the office of Frank Mann, tenement house commissioner and chairman of the Mayor's committee. About 500 shares of stock were subscribed at the rate of fifty cents a share a month. Members of the association will be enabled to borrow the necessary funds.

The following directors were named: Commissioner Mann, A. F. Matthews, Deputy Comptroller Frank J. Friel, Jarvis S. Hicks, treasurer of the Long Island Savings Bank; Duncan McGuinness, Collins H. Woodward, commissioner of public works; of Manhattan; William E. Walsh, Lawrence McGuire, Edward F. Doyle, secretary of the Real Estate Board and the Mayor's committee; William F. Doyle, chief of the Bureau of Fire Prevention; William R. Bradley, Capt. John J. Waldron of the Fire Department; Adolphe L. McNamara of the Department of Health, Corporation Counsel John P. O'Brien and H. H. Murdoch.

Other actions looking to solution of the housing problem yesterday were: Henry H. Curran, President of the Borough of Manhattan, recommended to the committee on city plan and public improvements denial of the petition of theatrical interests to have certain Sheridan Square blocks changed from classification as a residence zone to a business zone. The desire of the petitioners to erect a theatre there, tearing down a number of dwellings for the purpose, has been the subject of warm fights before the Board of Aldermen and before the Borough President.

The Board of Aldermen passed an ordinance permitting the walls of dwellings outside the fire limits to be made only eight inches thick instead of the twelve previously required where the building is not more than forty feet in height. It was stated that such amelioration of restrictions would reduce the cost of the building by one-third.

United States Senator William M. Calder, chairman of the Special Senate Committee on Reconstruction and Production, sent a telegram to the Interstate Commerce Commission urging the Commission to permit all branches of the building industry to submit facts concerning the seriousness of the situation.

Mr. Calder said the building trades desired an opportunity "to present to your commission facts as to the inevitable results of a continuance in operation of the recent car service orders."

Senator Calder conferred recently with several railroad executives, calling their attention to the importance of immediate transportation of building materials. He said the movement of building materials should take precedence over all shipments except food and fuel.

**SAY SHE KEPT RENTS ENTRUSTED TO HER**

**Bronx Tenants Testify Against Mrs. Cavanaugh.**

Almost one-half of the 250 tenants and landlords who have been summoned to testify in the trial of Mrs. Alice J. Cavanaugh of 735 Forest avenue, The Bronx, accused of withholding rents, were in court yesterday when the case was called before Judge Louis D. Gibbs in the Bronx County Court. This is the record number of witnesses for a Bronx jury trial.

Mrs. Cavanaugh, who was indicted for grand larceny, is alleged to have withheld rents totalling more than \$3,000, which she is said to have collected as a representative of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering. Assistant District Attorney Adlerman, the prosecutor, asserted that Mrs. Cavanaugh had collected about \$20,000, which she is still holding.

Two former chairmen of the Mayor's Committee on Rent Profiteering, Nathan Hirsch, who resigned last December, and Arthur J. W. Hilley, a lawyer living at Belle Harbor, who succeeded Mr. Hirsch, said that Mrs. Cavanaugh was only a volunteer worker for the Mayor's committee. Mr. Hirsch asserted that he did not know Mrs. Cavanaugh had collected money from tenants to get the rents from Mrs. Cavanaugh he collected the March and April rents from the tenants, and that some were still paying him in installments.

Of the \$2,191 paid to Mrs. Cavanaugh by the forty-four tenants \$933.50 has been returned to Mr. Baehr, he said. She owes him a balance of \$2,197.50. Ehrlich admitted that she had given him about \$700. He said the tenants had to pay him or be dispossessed. Tenants from 767 East 160th street, who also paid their rent to Mrs. Cavanaugh, were called by the prosecutor to show that the defendant tried to withhold their rents.

The trial will continue to-day.

**MURPHY PLEADING POSTPONED.**  
Indicted Tammany Leader Will Be Heard October 4.

Justice Weeks in the Criminal Branch of the Supreme Court yesterday postponed the second hearing of the indictments returned against Charles F. Murphy, Tammany leader, until October 4. By agreement of counsel the time for changing the pleas and making motions was extended also in the cases of Arthur J. Baldwin, John A. McCarthy, Ernest B. Walden, Assistant District Attorney James E. Smith and the Corn Products Company, indicted for conspiracy to defraud the Government. The indictments were returned last week by the Extraordinary Grand Jury.

None of the defendants was present in court.

**Reappoints Mancuso Magistrate.**

City Magistrate Francis X. Mancuso, who was appointed two and a half years ago to fill an unexpired term, was re-appointed yesterday by Mayor Hylan for a full ten year term. The salary is \$3,000.

## DEATH FROM STARVATION.

Woman, Found in Her Room Ill. Dies in Hospital.

Mrs. Mary Ryan, 28 years old, a tenant in a rooming house at 270 Lexington avenue, was found ill in bed in her room yesterday afternoon and removed to Bellevue Hospital, where it was said she was suffering from starvation. She died last night.

Mrs. Adele Lucas, who conducts the house, said Mrs. Ryan had lived there six years but had very few friends. For the last two weeks Mrs. Lucas had not seen her, and assumed she had gone out of town. The police found several cans of soup and fruit in the room. It was believed the woman became too ill to prepare anything to eat.

**ANN LUTHER FILES PROTEST.**

Denies Charges Made in Montana Divorce Suit.

Miss Ann Luther, motion picture actress, who was one of the correspondents named by Evelyn Nesbit Thaw-Montani in her suit for divorce against Jack (Clifford) Montani, filed an answer yesterday in the Supreme Court. She denies the charges and declares that she will defend herself against the attack. She demands that a copy of all papers in the case be served upon her attorney.

Montani has a counter suit for divorce, naming a dancing partner of Miss Nesbit. She denies the charges in this action.

**No Carrier Delivery Monday.**

Thomas G. Patten, postmaster, announced yesterday that there will be no carrier delivery of mail next Monday, when Independence Day will be observed. Mr. Patten suggested that persons who expect important mail on that day should advise the senders to mail it special delivery, as such deliveries will be made. Mail for hotels, clubs and public offices will be ready for delivery to messengers at 8 A. M.

Commissioner Fennelly made that

## CITY PAYS \$85,000 FOR FAULTY SEWER

Contract Called for Brick, but Wood Is Found After Cavein.

TO MAKE INVESTIGATION

Fennelly Says Name of Contractor on Brooklyn Job in 1904 Is Known.

Workmen digging in the Sixtieth street sewer, Brooklyn, unearthed last week what appeared to be a skeleton from the Tammany regime of Mayor George B. McClellan, when, according to Joseph Fennelly, Assistant Commissioner of Public Works, they discovered that the walls were built of wooden blocks, instead of the brick, for which the contract let to John J. Cream in 1904 called. Because of the use of wood, which has rotted away, and the additional circumstance that the contractor failed by eight inches of making the wooden walls as thick as the brick walls were supposed to be, the sewer has caved in for a distance of 150 feet, the Commissioner said.

Further investigation is being made and when the data is complete, the Commissioner said, the matter will be placed in the hands of the Corporation Counsel for action.

revelation when he appeared before the Board of Aldermen yesterday and obtained \$40,000, in addition to \$45,000 recently granted, to complete repair of the sewer. That will make \$85,000, in addition to the \$301,000 which the sewer cost the city in 1904 under the original contract.

In reply to questions by Alderman B. C. Vladeck, Commissioner Fennelly stated: "Yes, we know the name of the contractor who did the job, and he is still doing business. His name is John J. Cream. Full information will be placed in the hands of the Corporation Counsel within a month."

The Commissioner explained that at the time the first appropriation of \$45,000 was asked he was not aware that there was anything faulty with the construction, and that the additional appropriation was necessary to cope with new conditions found when the workmen opened the sewer.

No contractor by the name of John J. Cream appears in the telephone or other directories of Brooklyn. John J. Cream, a contractor, lives at 203 Argyle road, Brooklyn, and conducts his business from the same address. He was not at home last night and it could not be learned from those at his house where he was.

He has a brother, Daniel J. Cream, also a contractor, who lives at 910 St. Mark's avenue, Brooklyn. Daniel Cream said last night he could not recall whether he or his brother had anything to do with the Sixtieth street contract.

**HULBERT TOO BUSY TO EXPLAIN LEASE**

Complains of Misstatements Regarding Piers.

Murray Hulbert, Commissioner of Docks and Ferries, declined yesterday to give any explanation of why the pier at the foot of East Fourth street was not put up for public bidding instead of being

leased through the Sinking Fund Commission for a ten year period to the stevedore firm of Carroll, Hagan & Carroll. The Hagan in the firm is Foster A. Hagan, son of James J. Hagan, the Tammany leader.

"There have been so many misstatements printed concerning this lease that I have no time to correct them," the Commissioner said. He was told any statement he wished to make regarding the facts would be published, and he said he was too busy supervising the construction of new piers to prepare a statement.

The Commissioner's attention was called to Mayor Hylan's letter of last March instructing the Commissioner to notify everyone holding a pier under lease or permit that if the lease charges more for use of the pier than is paid the city the lease or permit would be revoked. The Commissioner said the rule was in force, and that he would revoke any lease if it was shown to him the lessee was overcharging. In the case of the East Fourth street pier, he said, it could not be determined for a year and a half whether the Carroll, Hagan & Carroll firm was making overcharges.

**GIRL MOTORIST IS ACQUITTED.**

Miss Epman Held Blameless for Killing of Two Men.

Miss Miriam Epman, 20 years old, of 656 West 162d street, who ran down and killed two men on June 6 while operating her automobile at Broadway and 151st street, was discharged yesterday by Magistrate Douras in Washington Heights Court after Policeman John Heardon, automobile expert of the Police Department, testified that the brakes and other mechanism of her automobile were in perfect condition and that the accident occurred through no culpable negligence on her part.

Mrs. Epman, in avoiding a collision with another vehicle, ran her automobile up on the sidewalk, destroyed a fire alarm box and knocked down the two men. A charge of homicide was preferred against her after the accident.

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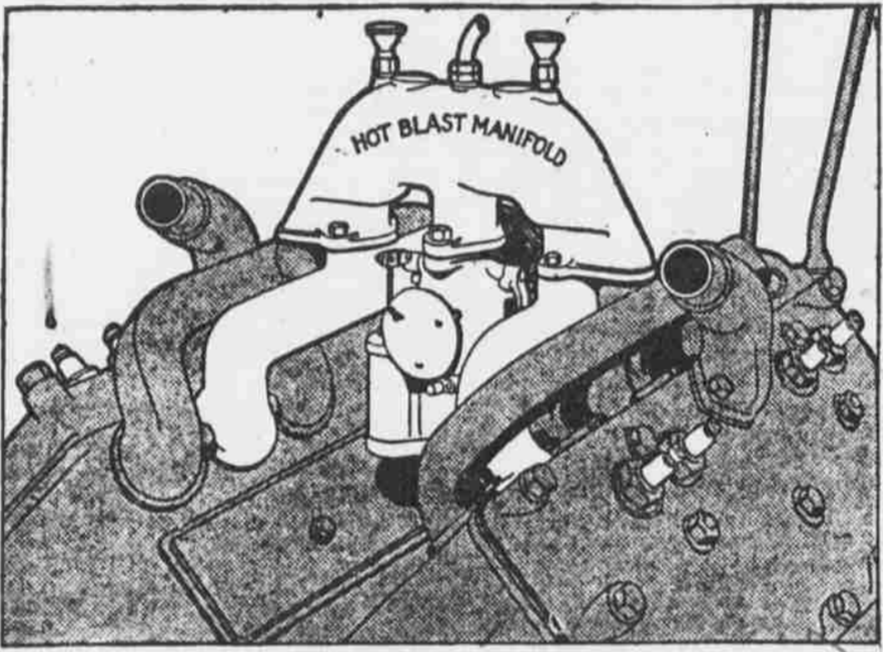
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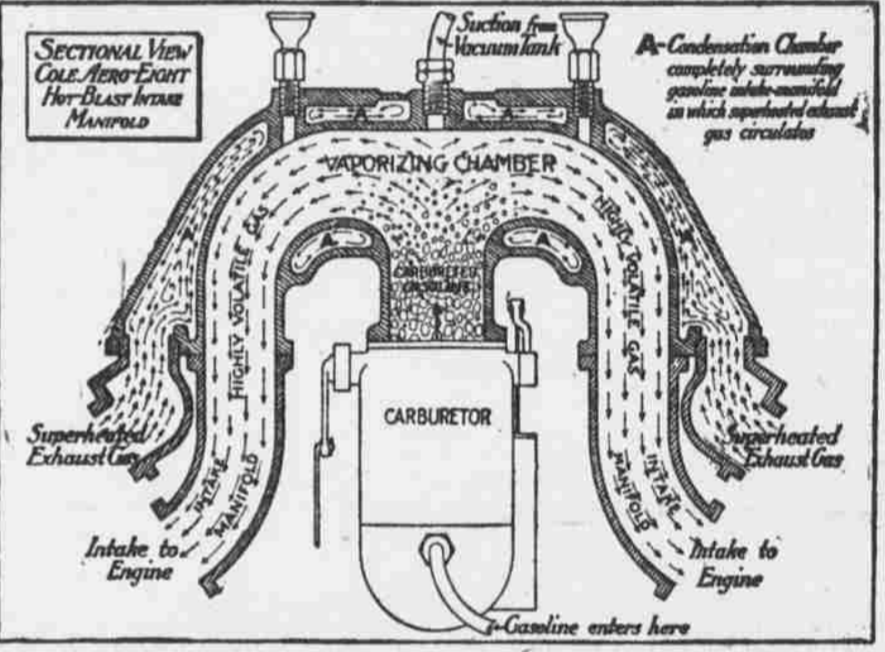
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